

I am very excited about HDTV and I believe I am a target (i.e. perfect) consumer for both the FCC HDTV regulations and the HDTV products.

I am a busy person, and never have time to watch TV when it actually happens (i.e. in real-time). I have two VCRs in my home whose sole purpose is to record my family's favorite shows so we can watch them later when we have the time. I have been very anxious to upgrade to an HDTV PVR (either a D-VHS recorder or a ReplayTV that supports HDTV recording) so I can time shift my shows in HDTV.

The right to watch shows at a different time, and to even keep them for archival purposes was previously determined with the Betamax case. The industry was frightened by the prospect of a VCR and that it would hurt the TV/Movie industry. But it didn't. In fact it helped it grow. HDTV without a broadcast flag will do the same. The situation is no different even though the technology has improved. While HDTV is high resolution by today's standards, VHS and Betamax was high resolution for 1970's standards and again, it did not have a negative effect on the industry.

The purpose for having a broadcast "flag" would seem to undo that previous court decision, and will undermine all consumer's rights to time shift their shows. I want HDTV quality television, but my active life will not allow me to move my schedule to only watch shows while they are being broadcast. You will basically be making it impossible for me and any consumer who uses the programming features of their VCRs and TiVos to every enjoy a full resolution HDTV broadcast.

Please do not allow a "broadcast flag" to be included in the HDTV standards. Thank you for your time.